

Twelve-month university operation task force brainstorms for changes to academic calendar

TAYLOR MULLER
News Editor

UNO is looking into changing its operation to a 12-month academic calendar. The change, says Chancellor John Christensen, will allow the campus to fulfill its goal of becoming a metropolitan university.

A university-wide task force looking into the possible implementation met for the fourth time Wednesday afternoon in the Milo Bail Student Center. The task force, chartered by Christensen on Oct. 3, will make a report to the chancellor by the end of January 2008.

"I have no preconceived notion as to what the answer may be. Based on what the future may hold, full consideration of twelve month operations is very important," said Christensen on the task force's Web site,

www.unomaha.edu/12monthplan/model.php.

Focusing on the effects throughout the campus, from localized departments to faculty contracts, the discussion enabled co-chairs Sheri Noren Everts and Scott Tarry to further focus the goals and intent of an altered calendar.

Everts is the interim vice chancellor for academic and student affairs and Tarry is the director of the Aviation Institute and president of UNO Faculty Senate.

"We're identifying the things that need to be examined, collecting the data that needs to be examined," said Tarry. "I think the original plan was the taskforce would do its work with the idea that there was a possibility of pilot programs in the summer."

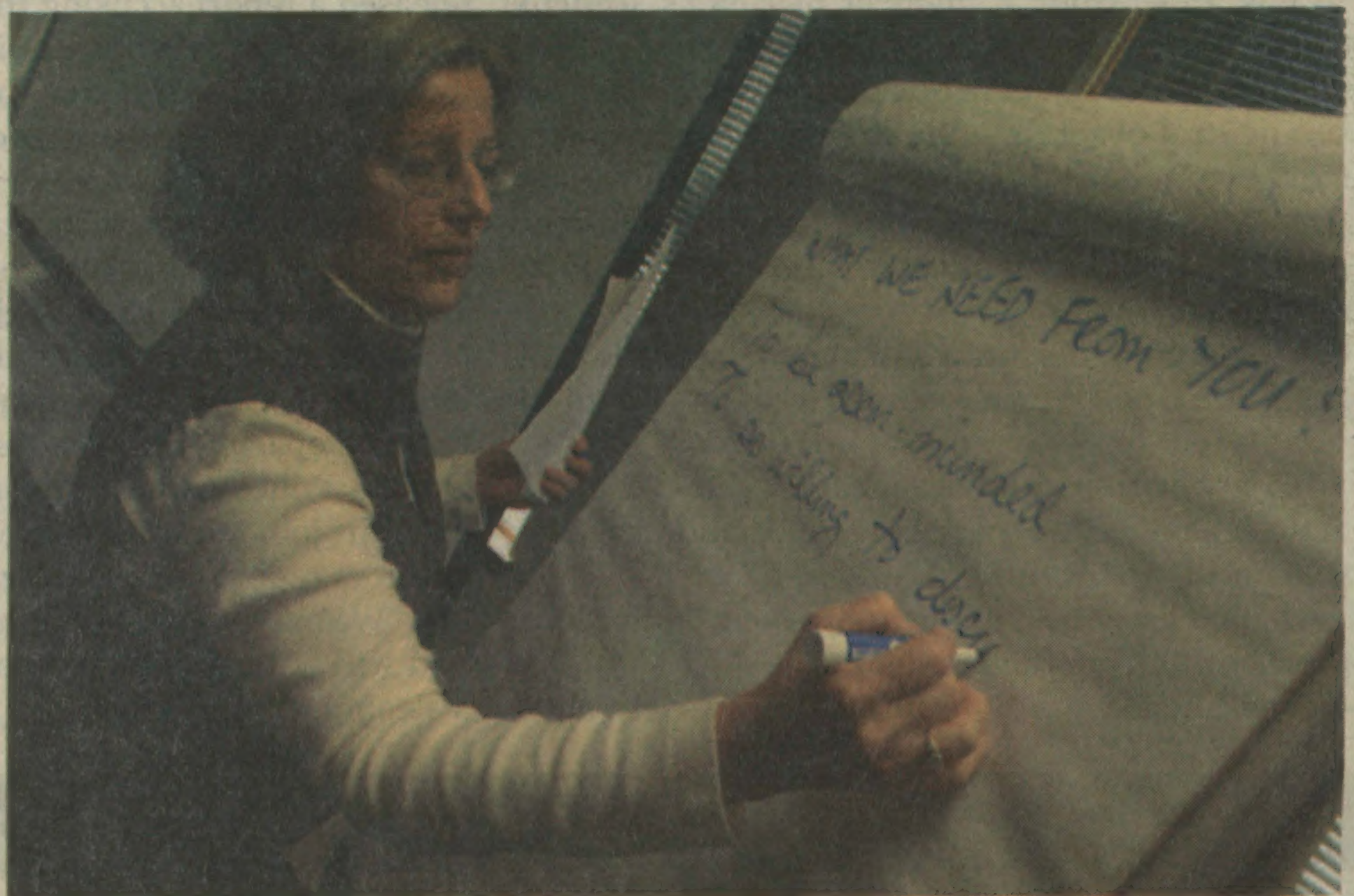


photo by Bill Wendt

Director of Institutional Research Linda Mannering writes out her group's ideas during discussion and brainstorming on the possibility of a 12-month academic calendar change.

See **TASK FORCE:** Page 7

Chancellor explains vision for UNO calendar

CASSY LOSEKE
Contributor

Earlier this semester, Chancellor John Christensen introduced an idea that could possibly change the way this university runs in the long term.

Speaking at the Oct. 3, 2007 convocation ceremonies, Christensen stated: "We must commit our energies to create a genuine calendar year operation, breaking away from the old agrarian-based nine month academic calendar, as befits a modern and responsive metropolitan university."

In an interview Wednesday, Christensen said proposing the switch from a nine month calendar to a 12 month calendar would allow for a third starting point, providing a more balanced opportunity for students to move through their academic programs. Doing so would also allow early graduation for some.

As a UNO alumnus, Christensen placed himself back into the shoes of a student while considering the change.

"I started thinking about this from a student perspective," Christensen said. "As a way to help [students] through the college experience perhaps in a quicker, better, faster, less stressful way."

The chancellor said the change would allow for more efficiency in university operations, utilizing the resources currently offered in the summer that are not used to their fullest potential.

He also believes that the change will provide more opportunities for a wider assortment of course offerings. Additional internship opportunities and practica opportunities could also be available to students.

"Members of the community have often commented that it's unfortunate because there could probably be a number of opportunities if we were more operational in the summer," Christensen said. "It would send a message that we're an institution that operates on a 12 month calendar like all of our partners in the community who

are also on 12 month calendars."

More flexibility for faculty research could also come about as a product, said Christensen. Professors are currently contracted under a 12 month calendar and would be able to choose their own time of the trimester year to conduct research or focus in other areas not directly related to teaching. The current system compels them to use the summer for research.

As result of his vision, a task force was created consisting of a range of faculty, staff and students. The task force is charged with researching and studying the proposal for the university. After the initial groundwork is laid out, the committee will then provide an educated recommendation according to their findings and the opinions of constituency groups on campus and within the community.

Even though the task force will try to address the negative aspects of this proposal, they are still in the beginning stages and will not know the exact product, positive or negative.

"We're not going to know a lot of the nuts and bolts until after the task force completes [its] initial work in early January," Christensen said.

In the meantime, the task force is meeting on a bi-weekly basis in an effort to meet the challenges of the relatively unique proposal.

Christensen stated that not too many institutions have used this system, as the proposal creates challenges. Conflicts the committee will look into are the effects of fiscal statuses for those dependent on financial aid, requirements for student athletes, visa requirements for international students and costs of running such a program, although Christensen said there would not be much difference.

Christensen said there would be fewer instructional days in the summer, but that spring and fall holidays would not be reduced or eliminated by changes. He said

See **CHANCELLOR:** Page 12

Maverick football's path to immortality

A preview of the 2007 playoffs

UNO football fans, I know what you're thinking: We've been in this position before. After Saturday's landslide victory over Central Washington, the UNO football program earned a first-round bye and a second-round home game in the NCAA playoffs for a third straight season. The Mavs were ousted in the second round in each of the last two seasons, which raises the question: What makes this season different?

This year, the Mavericks completed this program's

first undefeated season since 1954. This year the Mavericks earned a No. 1 seed, which means instead of facing a second round foe such as North Dakota, they will play either Ashland or Central Washington in their postseason opener. This year, the Mavericks walked all over the nation's second toughest schedule with arguably Division II's most dominant ground game, a clutch defense that has played exceptional in

From the Bench



Jason Sibson

recent weeks and a plethora of talented veterans that seem convinced they've lost their last game.

With UNO slated as one of the favorites in this year's 24-team championship tournament, here's a look at some other teams to be reckoned with.

The Heavyweights:
Grand Valley State

See **FOOTBALL:** Page 12

UNO group oversees police brutality protest

MARK REAGAN
CONTRIBUTOR

Protestors crowded the corner of 72nd and Dodge streets during rush hour traffic Friday, Nov. 9. Holding sign accusing the Omaha Police Department of brutality, the protesters were joined by UNO's recently created American Civil Liberties Union chapter as legal observers.

Travis McAurthur, a member of UNO's student ACLU chapter, said, "Our goal here is to show presence at protests where our presence is requested. We are neutral observers. We make sure everyone is safe and everyone is okay."

The protest was in response to several recent allegations of police brutality in Omaha, especially in minority populations.

Present among the crowd of about 50 people, Cal Pekas Jr. said police arrested and beat members of his family.

"Twenty cruisers and a helicopter showed up to my house, handcuffed, pepper sprayed and beat two women and four children," Pekas said.

Dylan Pekas, the youngest arrested, suffered a broken hand during the incident.

Pekas likened his wife and children's arrest to

"an Iraq type situation."

"The police have become a Gestapo squad," he said.

Willy Hamilton, a member of Omahans for Justice Alliance, said the city needed its police auditor back.

"We need oversight," Hamilton said.

Mayor Mike Fahey fired former public safety auditor Tristan Bonn in October 2006 after she released a report accusing the Omaha police of racial profiling. Bonn has been active in publicly calling for the restoration of the position.

Hamilton said the protestors were taking a stand.

"They are tired of brutality and misconduct in the police force. This is not over and we are not going away. Something has to be done," said Hamilton.

Aiming to bring about change, eight Omaha families have joined in a lawsuit against the Omaha Police Department. Pekas said they are asking for Omaha Police Chief Thomas Warren to step down from his job, reinstate a police auditor and make the auditors reports available online.

"We may be poor and indigenous but this cannot and will not happen any more. They have awakened a sleeping giant," he said.

Break brings reduced hours, closings to UNO

JILLIAN WHITNEY
CONTRIBUTOR

With Thanksgiving break right around the corner many of UNO's services have a different schedule. The week starts with Nov. 19 and 20 and all buildings and services will operate on normal business hours.

However, on Nov. 21 the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building hours will be from 6:30 a.m. until 8p.m.

The pool will be open from 6:30 a.m. until 9a.m., 11a.m. until 1p.m. and 4p.m. until 7p.m.

The university library will be open from 7a.m. until 5p.m. All other university buildings are open and will operate on their normal business hours.

On Nov. 22 all buildings are closed for Thanksgiving, and on Nov. 23 HPER will be open only from 10a.m. until 6 p.m. and the pool is open from 11a.m. until 4 p.m.

The Criss Library will be closed, as will most other services on campus.

All buildings and services will resume normal business hours Nov. 24.

News You Can Use

COMPLIED BY
CASSY LOSEKE
CONTRIBUTOR

Football playoff tickets currently on sale

The second-round playoff football game tickets are currently on sale for the Nov. 24 game. Tickets can be purchased at the Lee and Helene Sapp Fieldhouse ticket office in the lobby or through TicketMaster.

UNO, 10-0 and the No. 1 seed in the NCAA Division II Northwest Region, will play the winner of this Saturday's Ashland-Central Washington game at 1:05 p.m. Nov. 24 at Caniglia Field.

Tickets cost \$15 for reserved seats, \$10 for adult general admission and \$5 for student and senior general admission.

UNO students collecting books, toys for refugee, immigrant children

The Service Learning Academy along with the International Center for the Heartland is currently collecting books and toys to benefit refugee and immigrant children in the Omaha area.

Gently used and new educational toys and books for children ages 3 to 5 can be dropped off at any Omaha Public Library branch, the Ralston Public Library or the Criss Library on campus through Friday, Nov. 30. Items will be donated to the International Center for the Heartland in Omaha.

Money raised will also fund Mommy and Me classes for refugee families.

For more information on the project, contact Kathe Oleson at kathleoleson@mail.unomaha.edu or 554-2427.

Thanksgrooving Music Festival concert to raise funds, food for Omaha Food Bank

The second annual Thanksgrooving Music Festival will be held Nov. 17, starting at noon and playing all night until 1 a.m.

The music will begin in Benson at the Waiting Room Lounge and the Pizza Shoppe Collective and is sponsored by the *City Weekly*, New Belgium Brewing Company, Homers, One Percent Productions, Pizza Shoppe Collective, and Omaha Night Life. Bands playing are Polydypsia, Jah Roots (Springfield, Mo.), Satchel Grande, Somasphere (Lincoln), the Blue Martian Tribe, Vinyl Haze, 5150's, Son of 76 (Lincoln), the Bigg Tasty, the Side Effects, Dessa Vibes, 'Nuff Crisis, Groove Gov'nors, Cornerstone Dub, the End in Red, KLAB, the Whiskey Pistols, Matt Cox and more.

Tickets are \$15 at the door without a food donation and \$12 in advance or at the door with a donation of a non-perishable food item.

For further information contact Adam Langdon, Thanksgrooving Chairman, at 980-2833.

"Hockey 101 for Women" at Qwest Center

The UNO Hockey team will hold "Hockey 101 for Women" on Thursday, Dec. 6. The event will serve as a fundraiser for the Diet Pepsi/UNO Women's Walk and Liz's Legacy, which funds scholarships for female student athletes at UNO.

Participants will have the opportunity to meet the team and learn hockey tips from the players' perspectives after registration starts at 4:30 p.m.

The event costs \$75 per person, includes dinner with the team and coaches, free parking, a T-shirt and one ticket to the UNO vs. Lake Superior State hockey series Friday and Saturday, Dec. 7 and Dec. 8. The first 100 registered participants will also receive the book *Hockey for Dummies* by John Davidson and John Steinbreder.

To register, contact Shirley Fey at 554-3422 or sfey@mail.unomaha.edu. All registrations must be received by Thursday, Nov. 29.

Free hockey buses, t-shirts for students

The Student Blue Line Club, the Bullpen, student government and the Athletic Department will be sponsoring free hockey buses for all home games.

Buses are currently scheduled to leave from the clocktower at 6:15 p.m. for the Friday, Nov. 16 game and 1:15 p.m. for the Sunday, Nov. 17 game against Ferris State. Buses will also leave the clocktower at 6:15 p.m. for the Friday, Nov. 23, and Saturday, Nov. 24 games against Alaska.

Those who ride the buses will receive free Bullpen t-shirts, while supplies last.

More information can be found by calling the student government office at 554-2620.

New tuition program forum for Iowa residents

Residents of Pottawattamie, Mills and Harrison counties in Iowa are invited to learn more about the Metropolitan Advantage Program this Sunday. The program enables them to attend UNO at 150 percent of resident tuition beginning next fall.

The forum runs from 12:30 to 2 p.m. at the Qwest Center Omaha. For more information, contact UNO Recruitment Services at 554-6281.

Crime Log

COMPLIED BY
CASSY LOSEKE
CONTRIBUTOR

Saturday, Nov. 10

12:06 a.m. Four non-affiliated suspects were reported to Campus Security as seeking the sale of marijuana to them. Omaha police were notified and contacted the suspects. Omaha police advised the suspects to leave and not return to campus.

Monday, Nov. 12

10:03 a.m. Student apprehended by bookstore staff for shoplifting. Bookstore staff decline to file criminal charges.

2 p.m. Staff member reported the theft of university property from Criss Library. Incident occurred between 1:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 9, and 12:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 12.

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For the Record

In the Nov. 13 feature story "Student Q&A: A glimpse into the lives of three Mavericks," the photos were misattributed to Features Editor Patrick Doty. The photos were actually taken by Colleen O'Doherty. The Gateway apologizes for this error.

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Features

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Degree audit report program aids students

SCOTT STEWART &
EDITOR IN CHIEF

PAMELA BOUTERSE
ASST. SECTION & COPY EDITOR

For students who plan on graduating soon or those wanting to keep a close eye on their degree progress, the degree audit report available on E-BRUNO is a necessary tool.

With the degree audit report, undergraduate and graduate students can access important information including what academic requirements are remaining, academic requirements completed or in progress and minors.

The degree audit report was created 10 years ago starting with the graduate program, according to Charlene Wilcox, associate director of records and registration. Shortly after the business program was added along with the College of Arts and Sciences. One after another, each college at UNO was added to the degree audit report.

Undergraduate adviser for the School of Communications Jen Mullins said that she plans next semester by sitting down with students and showing them how to use the program to keep track of their degree progress.

Every year each college updates the requirements for students on the degree audit report to keep it up to date.

"It is a useful tool for students assuming that the information is in there correctly," said Sherrie Wilson, associate professor of communication. "It's better than it use to be; it has gotten a lot better."

According to Mullins, a new, easier to use version of the degree audit report is in the making.

"It's going to be more visually friendly, I can't wait for it," said Mullins.

Unfortunately, not every student is aware of the degree audit function in E-BRUNO. Out of more than a dozen students asked by the Gateway about it, only two knew what it was.

"Never heard of it," said Jonathan Gentert, a senior criminal justice major. "That's what my adviser's for."

Several other students responded "What's that?" accompanied with blank stares when asked whether they had used degree audit before. A couple students responded that they had seen the button before, but never clicked it.

However, graduate student Allison Phillips said she graduated after her senior year on time thanks to degree audit. Phillips said she noticed the degree audit said a course she was initially enrolled in would not count towards her final graduation requirements, even though her adviser told her it would. She caught the mistake just in time to enroll in a different course.

Social work graduate student Lequisha Johnson agreed with Phillips, saying, "It helped confirm before graduating."

Students wanting to use degree audit can follow the step-by-step directions printed in the sidebar, or just go online at ebruno.unomaha.edu and click on the "Degree Audit Report" link on the main E-BRUNO page.

appropriate videogames and game systems selected by Child's Play," Holkins said in the interview. "Simply choose the hospital nearest you from our interactive map and the toys you purchase will be delivered directly."

Child's Play also accepts cash donations via Paypal to childisplaycharity@penny-arcade.com, which will be split evenly among the hospitals in this year's drive, Holkins said.

Unlike other charities, Holkins said, "there are no administrative fees or other hidden costs associated with giving to Child's Play - every cent is passed on."

This system has proven extremely successful, as donations continue to increase each year. Netting \$250,000 in 2003, donations increased to more than \$1 million last year.

As it has grown, the charity has also attracted the attention of corporate sponsors, with many gaming related companies making large donations.

Child's Play hopes to continue raising the bar in 2007. In addition to the donations taken throughout the winter, a charity dinner is scheduled for Dec. 11, which will include a silent auction for various items, with all proceeds going to Child's

Play. These include a variety of items, such as custom painted guitar hero controllers and, last year, a chance to be drawn into a Penny Arcade strip was sold at a substantial price.

As the 2007 season begins, one can't help but feel extremely optimistic for what might happen.

Another hope for Child's Play is to break the stereotype given to gamers by the mass media: that of a violent, murder-simulator trained zombie. For every violent crime to hit CNN, Columbine included, there's a lawyer blaming video games.

Child's Play can send a message to those who assume all gamers to be violent beings on the edge of cracking. As videogames move into mainstream entertainment, so do gamers, and sending a positive message to the world could mean a lot for the future.

So here's a challenge for all students, gamers or not: Do something amazing this year. Put a controller in a sick child's hand, a smile on their face and show the world what amazing things can happen when people get together for a good cause.

Degree Audit: Step-by-Step

COMPILED BY
SCOTT STEWART

1. Go to ebruno.unomaha.edu and enter your NUID (located on your student ID) and your PIN number (this is issued to you by the university upon enrollment). If you don't know your PIN, go to <https://ebruno.unomaha.edu/php/ses/emailpin> (notice the "s" in "https") and enter your NUID number to have your PIN e-mailed to your Lotus Notes account.

2. After signing in, E-BRUNO will confirm your current and permanent mailing address. Click "Yes, it is current" to continue.

3. On the left-hand column, click "Degree Audit Report" under "Registration / Records."

4. E-BRUNO will now confirm your program of study. If this is incorrect, contact your academic adviser to request a change of program form. You will have to have this form processed by the registrar's office in the Eppley Administration Building.

5. If your program is listed correctly, click "Yes, it's correct." A report will then be printed on the screen by E-BRUNO.

6. Check the first section of the report, "Academic Requirements Remaining." It will list courses you still need to complete to finish your program. Note: If you have more than one academic program, you will need to scroll down to find where your secondary program is listed; this section will have another block of requirements still remaining.

7. The second section of the report, "Academic Requirements Completed or in Progress," lists all the requirements - general education, major requirements and minor requirements - for your academic program, including which courses were applied towards that requirement and what your GPA is for each subsection. The last section of the report lists work not applicable towards your degree, including failed courses, withdrawn courses and courses that meet no requirements.

8. If you have any questions, or notice any discrepancies between the audit and your plan of study, contact your academic adviser. Contact information for your program's adviser can be found online or via UNO Information at 554-2800.

This holiday season, try video gaming for a cause

COMMENTARY BY
AJ ANTON
CONTRIBUTOR

The holiday season is here once again, which means along with holiday decorations, toys, and Christmas music on the radio, various charities will be out taking donations.

Thousands of children across the world undergo painful procedures, spend days or weeks in a hospital with IVs and constant tests, and Child's Play is hoping videogames can help them to escape this pain. Video games don't traditionally come to mind when you think of charity. But video games are what Jerry Holkins and Mike Krahulik, authors of famous gaming Web comic *Penny Arcade*, are centering their charity around. Locally, the charity benefits the University of Nebraska Medical Center Omaha Children's Hospital.

"Where gamers give back," is the motto of Child's Play, according to its Web site, childisplaycharity.org. The goal of the charity is to bring video games, as well as various other toys to children's hospitals across the globe.

Holkins and Krahulik founded Child's Play in 2003. The two challenged readers to donate to various children's hospitals around the world.

"Child's Play is a Seattle based gamer-run organization that holds an annual toy drive for children's hospitals," Holkins said in an interview posted on the Web site. "Many of the gifts donated by gamers are, as you might imagine, age appropriate videogames and gaming systems - but they are by no means the only things donated. We received eager donations of coloring books, art supplies, crafts, movies, cartoons, virtually anything a young person could ask for."

The response was so positive that the duo was forced to move to larger storage facilities three times.

Along with UNMC and Children's, hospitals from all over the United States, Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand and Egypt benefit from Child's Play's donors.

The donation process is also extremely easy, said Holkins.

"We have partnered with Amazon.com and DStore.com.au, which hosts a series of "Wish Lists" stocked with toys the hospitals have requested, as well as age



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Charley Reed | Arts & Leisure Editor

Chaillot hits UNO stage with top-notch performances from large cast

REVIEW BY
NICOLE HIGGINBOTHAM
STAFF WRITER

"Nothing is ever so wrong in this world that a sensible woman can't set it right in the course of an afternoon," observed Aurelia (Graduate student, Maria VachPittack) in the theatre department's interpretation of *The Madwoman of Chaillot*.

The Madwoman of Chaillot is a play written by Jean Giraudoux in Nazi-occupied France. Dying before he got a chance to see his play performed, Giraudoux challenged the Nazis's restriction of free speech by addressing issues of social inequity as a result of capitalism.

The play begins with the Prospector (Chris Harris), the Broker (Todd Zimmerman), the Barron (Charles Fisher) and the President (Ben Divis) all coming up with a scheme to strip a French cafe of its oil. Aurelia, otherwise known as the *Madwoman of Chaillot*, is the only one that can stop them. Quickly, Aurelia devises a plan to get rid of these nuisances, deciding to destroy their evil through extermination.

Of course, it is brought to Aurelia's attention that these men cannot be punished without a fair trial. So, in their absence, the town decides to hold a trial with a mock defendant.

There were many strong characters in this performance of the mid-century French play.

Junior Rachel Samson, who plays the Ragpicker, acts as the defendant in the trial and gives an extended speech about the morality of the rich and

the poor. Samson's performance is solid and is likely to have audiences in awe by the time it comes down to the verdict.

VachPittack showed her refined talents as an actress throughout her many scenes, and Harris' heartlessness could stop anyone in their tracks. The undercurrent of romantic tension between Aurelia and Juliet, played by junior Chelsie Hartness, was heartfelt and ripe of passion. It would leave any audience member with a twinge in their heart.

Additionally, the technical diversity in this play is incredible. Not only does the colorful set act as an emphasis to the different kinds of people that inhabit this small, French cafe, but the extraordinary costumes do their part to enhance the diversity of personalities. The set, covered with old newspaper clippings, gives a liberal air to the characters, and the multi-level stage assists in making chaos seem almost natural.

Further presentations of *The Mad Woman of Chaillot* are on Nov. 17, Nov. 28 through Nov. 30 and Dec 1. Seating begins at 7 p.m. with a curtain time at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at the UNO Box Office at \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors and students. For more information, contact the box office at 554-2335.



courtesy

Films focusing on musical minds hitting right notes in the Heartland

NICOLE HIGGINBOTHAM
STAFF WRITER

In the last few years, there has been an increase in musical bio-dramas. In 2004, *Ray*, the story of Ray Charles, became a movie. *Walk the Line*, which told the story of musical star Johnny Cash, was released in 2005, and in 2006 *Dream Girls* hit theaters.

Now in 2007, three films will be released to theaters: *Control*, which tells the story of the band Joy Division; *Kurt Cobain: About a Son*, which tells the story of the Nirvana front man; and *I'm Not There*, which depicts Bob Dylan's life.

"I think movie musicals are cyclical," said Kenny Glenn, professor in the UNO theatre department. "Remember the

films of Gene Kelly, Judy Garland, Fred Astaire ... and all the musicals of the '40s and '50s? They have just come back into fashion."

These limited release films likely hit the metro's multiplexes, but Omaha is still playing its part in the support of these musical bio-dramas. On Nov. 21, the Dundee Theatre will have its first showing of *I'm Not There*.

"It's getting a limited art release," said Matthew Brown, manager at the Dundee Theatre. "It's very critically acclaimed."

The movie runs about two hours and 20 minutes and shows times are yet to be announced.

Film Streams is also acting as a supporting arm for the trend. On Nov. 9 and Nov. 10, Film Streams' Ruth Sokoloff Theatre had its first showing of *Kurt Cobain: About a Son*.

"He's been one of the most influential musicians. His music and presence seem to live on. It's really different from any other musical documentary," explained Casey Logan, Film Streams' communication coordinator. "It's got all this imagery of the Northwest area. It's really interesting and really well made. It's almost as if he's narrating over it. It's really personal."

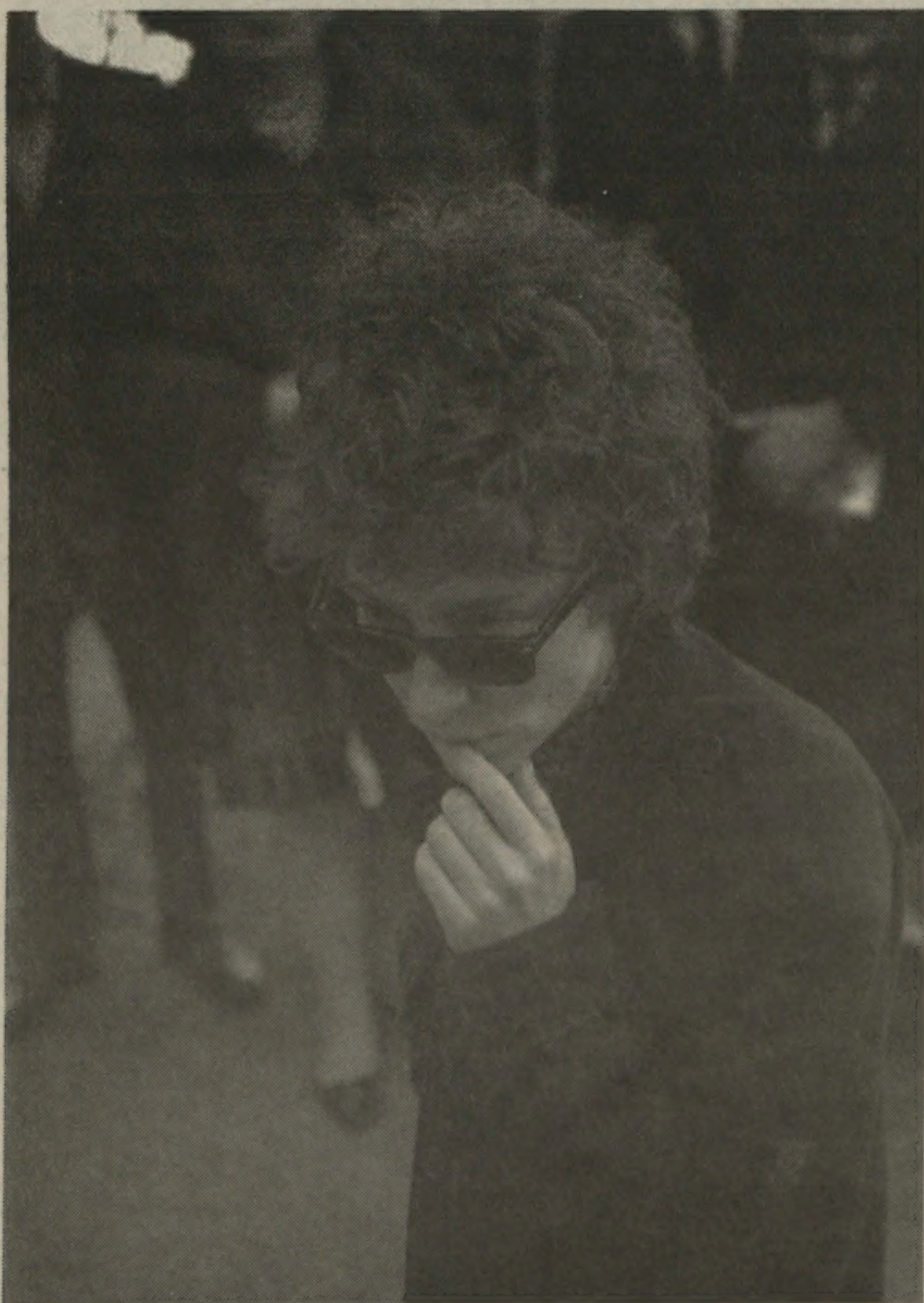
That personal element can be the key to understanding why films focusing on musicians are having a comeback in recent years.

"I have noticed how popular these types of films have become," said senior Mel Glover. "I think that more are being made, because people already think they know about these characters. They have a little background information and are interested to learn more."

Film Streams will also be showing *Control* on Nov. 16 through Nov. 29. The organizations director, Rachel Jacobson, said she thinks people have a strong relationship with their music, and it makes them want to be closer to the musicians.

"They want to know as much about these people who are enhancing their lives as they can. Also, for whatever reason, a lot of musicians have lived pretty wild lives, and their stories are worth telling," she added. "It's interesting, too, because they're frequently tragic lives."

Further information on the Dundee Theatre's showing of *I'm Not There* can be found by going to dundeetheatre.com or by calling 551-3595. Information and tickets for Film Streams' presentation of *Control* can be found at filmstreams.org or by calling 933-0259.



imdb.com

Cate Blanchett (*Notes on a Scandal*) is the early favorite for Best Actress at next year's Academy Awards for her turn as Bob Dylan in the film *I'm Not There*.



cia.com.au

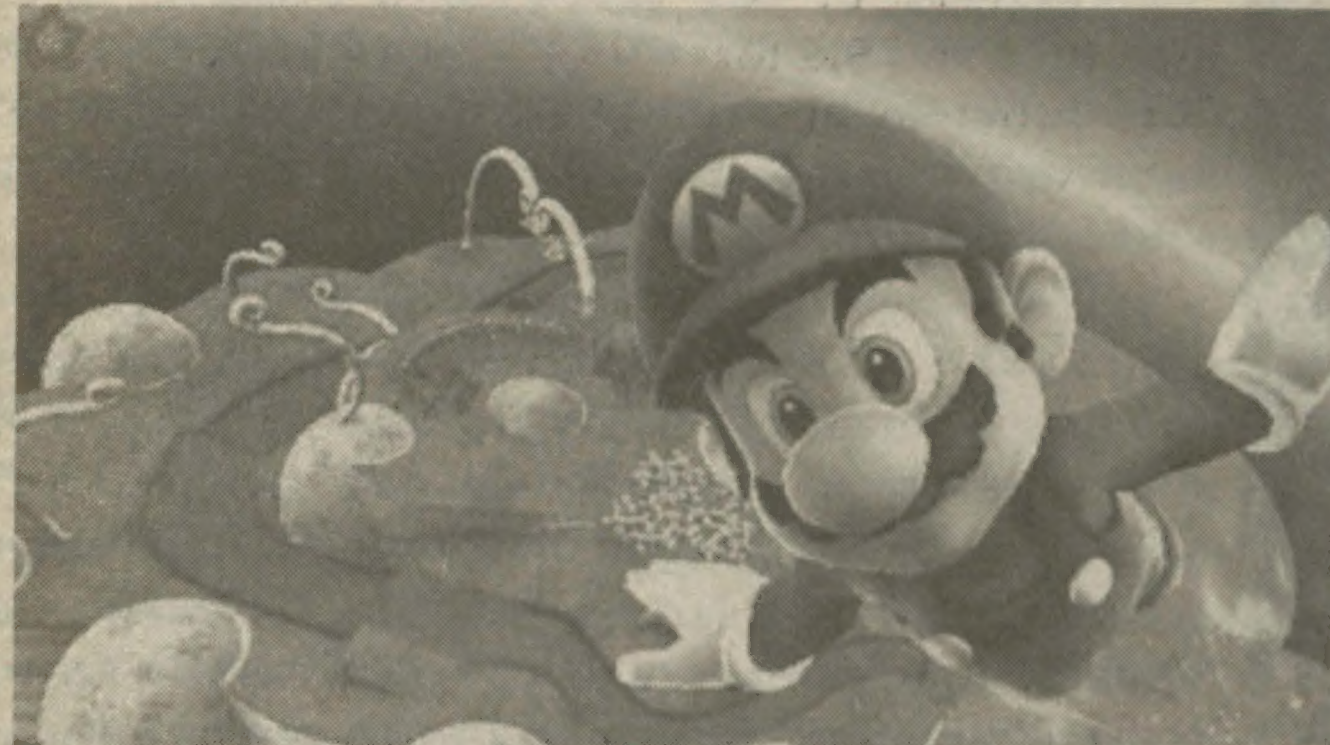
Joy Division singer Ian Curtis, who killed himself at the age of 24 in 1980, is the subject of the new bio-pic *Control*.

The ultimate 'Black Friday' rule: You're gonna' be broke either way

REVIEW BY
PAUL SMITH
CONTRIBUTOR

Black Friday is the name traditionally given to the Friday after Thanksgiving, which also happens to feature the highest number of shoppers per year. The name is sometimes associated with the accounting practice of labeling profits in black and losses in red, because the shopping holiday is typically the first time businesses get "out of the red" for the year overall.

Some businesses also call the following Monday "Cyber Monday," a day of increased Internet purchases that mirrors Black Friday. Whichever day you choose, your stomach may still be full but your wallet will surely be empty.



Super Mario Galaxy is just one of the high-profile Wii games being released over the next three months to feature the iconic cartoon plumber.

Here are some of the hot items for all of the high-tech shoppers to be on the look out for.

In this increasingly switched-on, high-def world, many retailers have bargain-basement prices for televisions.

This season retailers will be courting customers into purchasing HDTV's.

Analog TVs are as passé

as those awful '60s pieces that had carpet on them – at least that's what Congress believes.

In 2006 President Bush signed into law an act that requires analog television signals to be shut down by Feb. 17, 2009. Don't fret, those of you not willing, or not able, to upgrade to a \$1000 HDTV by then. You can still buy a converter, sold for as low as \$50 to \$70 at many fine retailers to get that new digital signal that will still look analog. Ain't America grand?

Of course, you're not likely to want to even watch TV with all the video game opportunities out there this year. *Guitar Hero III: Heroes of Rock* is coming to nearly every "existing" home console (PS2, PS3, Xbox 360, and Wii).

Microsoft also has many heavy hitters, like *Halo 3*, which sold 700,000 units in October alone. Microsoft also restructured their pricing and even added a new arcade system. I hope nobody gets suckered into thinking the arcade games that come with this new unit are full games. They are only demos. Plus, you can't attach an Xbox harddrive, which makes it the biggest rip-off this generation.

As for Sony, why even bother? Who has enough for a PS3? Sony had what they call "a price drop" but they really just put bigger hard drives in the two systems and kept the prices the same. Most titles that look good for PS3 are also out on Xbox 360, except *Ratchet and Clank*. If you like the other *Ratchet* games, I would pick the game up. The new installment's witty subtitle, *Tools of Destruction*, leads me to believe the humor in this game is just as clever as the other games.

If you want a Wii this Christmas, run as soon as you see one. And if somebody gets in your way, trip them. Recent sales numbers from Nintendo show that they have averaged selling nearly 400,000 units per month in America since the console came out last November. The inexpensive unit is easy to manufacture but it is just too popular to keep on shelves in America, as well as the United Kingdom and Japan, although sales in Japan have just recently slowed down.

Nintendo's other little juggernaut, the Nintendo DS, sells quicker in Japan than pink panties in vending machines. The U.S. is also in love with the DS, selling more united than every other console, handheld or not, last holiday season.

This year looks extremely good for Nintendo and, with the recent release of the highly-anticipated *Super Mario Galaxy* for the Wii, Nintendo might be able to purchase America outright.

Those of you mapping out your shopping route and have been searching for leaked Black Friday ads on the Web, always take things on the Internet with a grain of salt. I have seen many ads online for deals at large retail chains, and there are some incredible deals, but don't expect every ad on the Web to be honored at the store.

High-definition DVD formats like HD-DVD (Toshiba) and Blu-ray (Sony) are bringing down prices as well. I've heard \$15 for quality DVDs are too brushed away that quickly, be happy with the quality and sound of the high definition format. Many



photo illustration by Michelle Bishop

"Black Friday" crowds like this one at Nebraska Furniture Mart near 72nd and Dodge streets will be common all across America on Nov. 23, a.k.a "Black Friday."

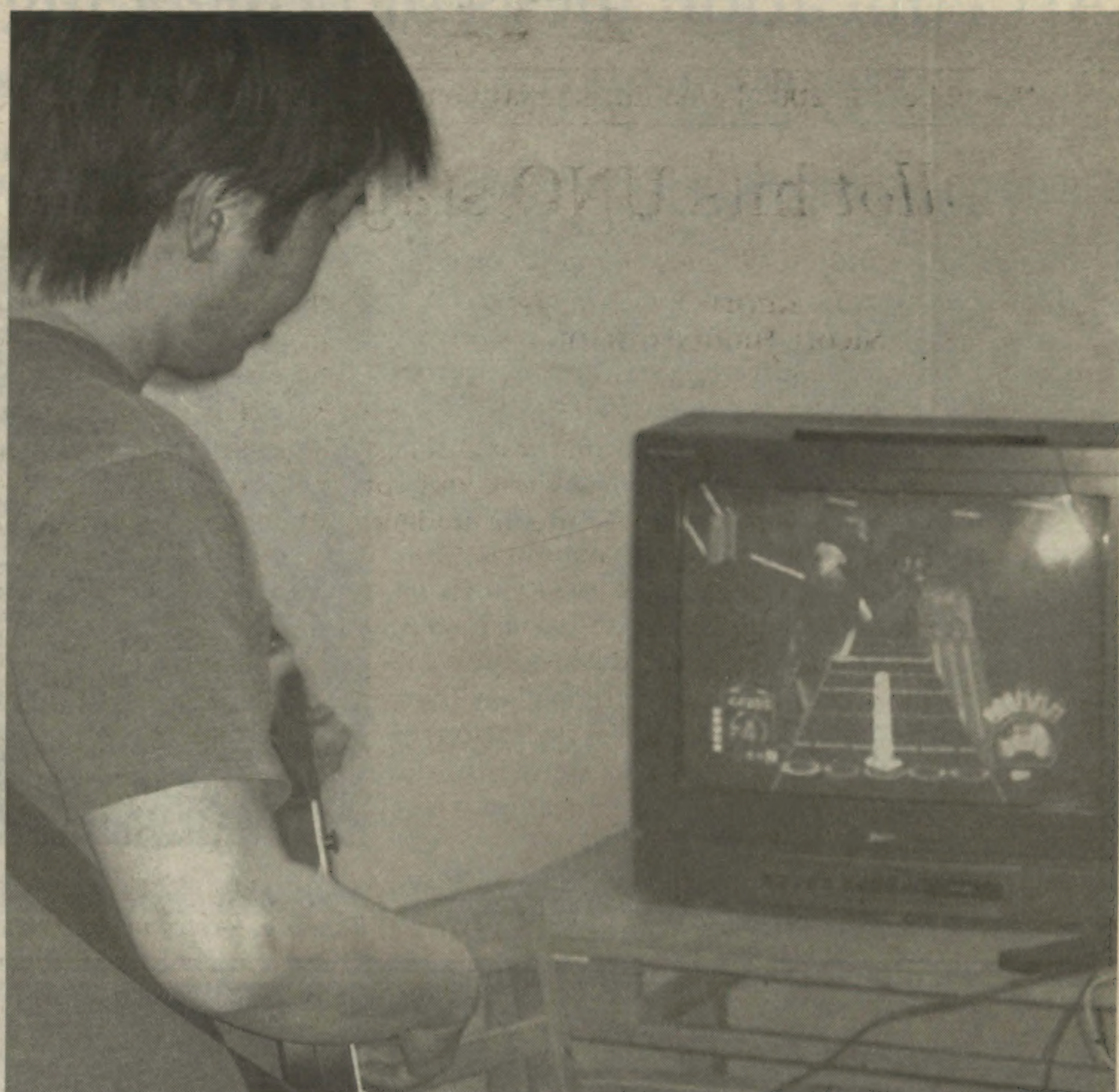


photo illustration by Charley Reed

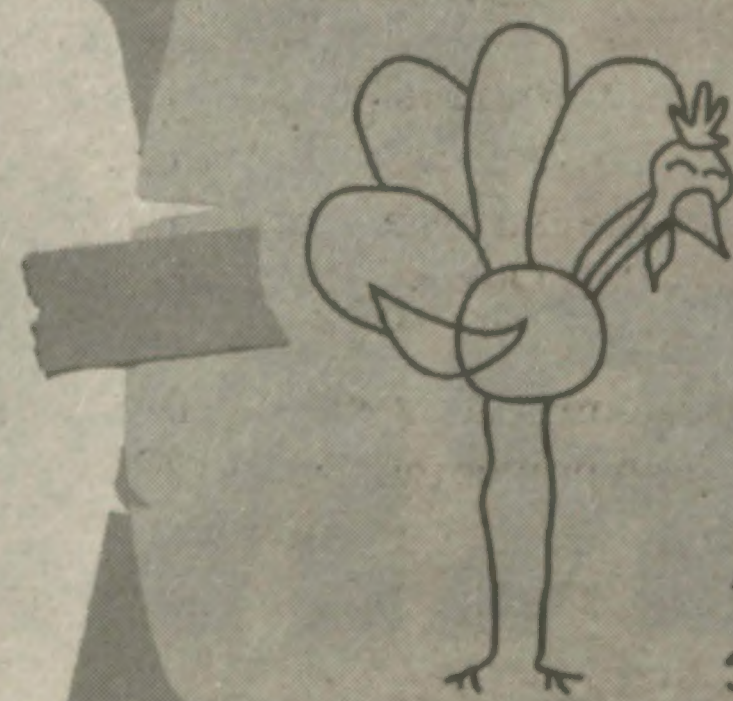
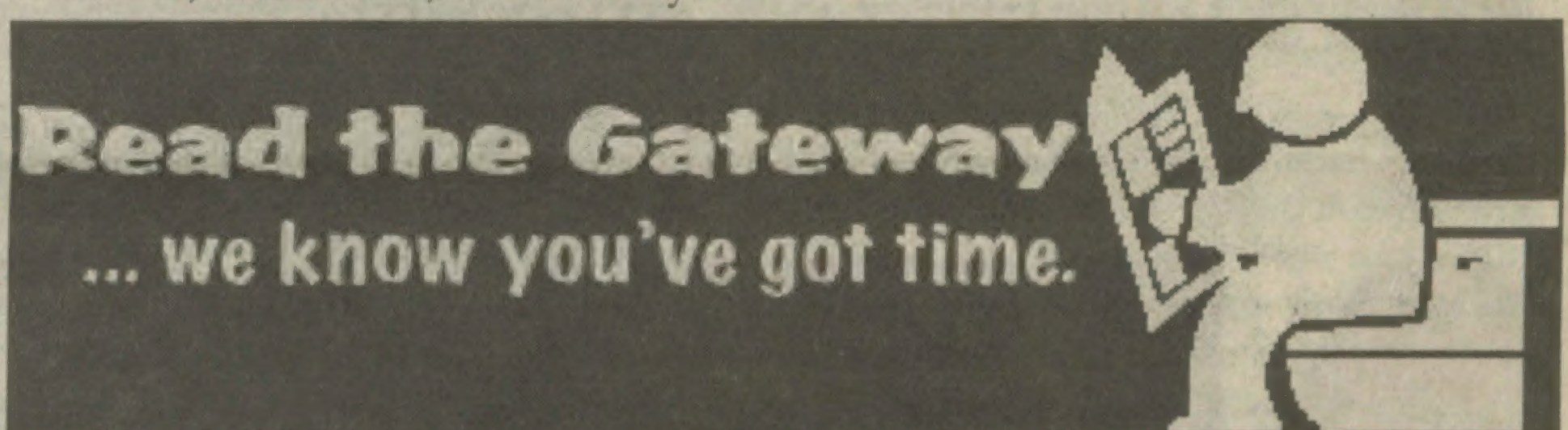
News Editor Taylor Muller plays Guitar Hero III in the Gateway offices on Wednesday.

DVD titles, HD or not, will likely be priced very low in the coming weeks.

While I am not an analyst, I do think this could be an interesting holiday season. With the dollar at a low and the markets unsteady, we will have to wait to see what shopping is going to be like this year. It's going to be dangerous either way.

In the end, just remember to breathe. Make snarky comments about fellow human beings then get the hell out and go home to play some *Guitar Hero III*, *Virtua Fighter 5* with online capabilities, *Super Mario Galaxy*, or any of the millions of PS2 titles you might not have played yet.

After all, one way or another, somebody's fittin' to make a lot of money next week but, chances are, it won't be you.



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Art education focus of project highlighting work of Nebraska artists

NICOLE HIGGINBOTHAM
STAFF WRITER

The "Nebraska Masterpieces" project, a program designed to involve Nebraska's youth in the artistic culture of their community, has hit Nebraska schools full force.

The Nebraska Masterpieces project emerged from the "American Masterpieces: Three Centuries of Artistic Genius" project, which was created by the National Endowment for the Arts.

The larger "Masterpieces" project was created to inform members in different states about the famous artists who flocked their community. For the Nebraska Masterpieces project, the focus is on local artists like Kent Bellows, Keith Jacobshagen, Michael James, Jun Kaneko and Karen Kunc.

In order to inform Nebraska school on their works, posters including a diverse selection of artists' pieces and a curriculum designed by the Center for Innovation in Arts Education were made available to educators.

"I think that it's raised awareness of some of the Nebraska local artists," said Martin

Skomal, director of programs at the Nebraska Arts Council.

The program is sponsored by both the Nebraska Arts Council and the University of Nebraska at

Omaha's Center for Innovation in Arts Education.

Anne Alston, education and communities manager for the Nebraska Art Council, added that a set of the artists' posters were sent anywhere they could be used as educational tools.

"A set of posters were sent to every K-12 school in this state," said Anne Alston, education and communities manager for the Nebraska Art Council. "We also distributed them to a lot of colleges and other people involved in art education."

The posters can not only be used as inspiration for students, but also as physical examples of homegrown artwork that students can analyze and learn from.

"Part of the mission of the Center for Innovation in Arts Education is to be a leader in arts education and provide professional development to educators in arts integration," said Shari Hofschire, director for the UNO Center for Innovation in Arts Education. "This was a wonderful opportunity to make teachers aware of these contemporary artists and to provide them ready-made curriculum materials so they could

teach about the art and see how to integrate it into other subject areas."

The posters are also available to the public through the Nebraska Arts Council.

For more information about the Nebraska Masterpieces project, or how to get a poster, contact Shari Hofschire at 554-2402 or visit nebraskaartscouncil.org/local/Nebraska_Masterpieces.



photo by Charley Reed

A ceramic sculpture from Japanese-born Nebraska artist Jun Kaneko is located in the second floor of the Criss Library.



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From **TASK FORCE:** Page 1

The task force is made up of 25 students, faculty, staff and administrators ranging from deans to coaching staff.

Several of the positives the task force gathered include better parking and utilization of space, more flexibility for students and faculty as well as better alignment with the job market.

"We have an enormous facilities crunch on this campus in terms of providing the quality we expect," said Deb Smith-Howell, associate vice chancellor for student affairs.

Everts agreed with Smith-Howell that use of campus facilities is a major driving force behind the proposal.

"I don't think there's a discussion on campus that doesn't involve the capacity situation," Everts said.

However, there were also several questions and negative points resulting from such a change, including faculty and staff issues, financial aid and budgetary concerns.

Tom Frette, the senior associate athletic director, said a main concern for his department would be student-athlete eligibility issues.

"If you break it down, that probably bodes pretty well with the

NCAA," said Frette. He also said the staff of the department would not be affected much, since "it's basically going 12 months anyways."

Mike Whitney, a resident assistant present at the forum, said the change would make sense for many students living on campus.

"In the dorms, a lot of the students sign a 12-month lease, but just go home during the summer," said Whitney.

With such a large possible change, student input is particularly important, said Director of Institutional Research Linda Mannering.

"We should be open-minded and willing to discuss all of the above, to be willing to discuss, to ask questions, positives, negatives," said Mannering. "We must gather input and suggestions from constituents."

Everts echoed those sentiments, saying, "We need to communicate what we're doing in here."

Tarry agreed, saying, "None of this is intended to be done behind closed doors."

The task force is meeting biweekly, with their next meeting Nov. 28 at noon in the Council Room of the Milo Bail Student Center.

Composition of 12-month Operational Plan Task Force

Ann Antifinger, professor of biology

Gail Baker, dean of the College of Communication, Fine Arts and Media

Kris Bell, assistant to the vice chancellor of academic & student affairs

Tom Frette, senior associate athletic director

Dave Hinton, former dean of the College of Information Science & Technology

Tim Kaldahl, director of University Affairs

Lanyce Keel, director of Academic Partnerships for Instruction

Elizabeth Kraemer, former student president/regent

John Langan, dean of the College of Education

Harmon Maher, interim associate vice chancellor for research & creative activity

Eric Manley, associate dean of the College of Arts and Science

Linda Mannering, director of Institutional Research

Kevin Naylor, senior community service associate

Sheri Noren Everts, interim senior vice chancellor for academic & student affairs

Hayley Patton, director of Division of Continuing Studies

Bill Pratt, professor of history

BJ Reed, dean of College of Public Administration and Community Service

Wade Robinson, associate vice chancellor of student affairs

Deborah Smith-Howell, associate vice chancellor of academic & student affairs

Randy Sell, director of financial aid

Suzanne Sollars, associate professor of psychology

Scott Tarry, interim director of Aviation Institute

Julie Totten, interim vice chancellor of business & finance

Marsha Vance, business manager of College of Education

Judie Watanabe, associate professor of accounting

Michael Whitney, a resident director at University Village

Alex Williams, current student president/regent

Ilze Zigurs, chairperson of information systems & qualitative analysis

Source: Task force Web site and 2007-08 UNO employee directory

Compiled by Scott Stewart

Student showcase fills smaller space, talent still speaks volumes



photo by Bill Wendt

The work of Ashley Vak in the Weber Arts Gallery.

REVIEW BY
MARK REAGAN
CONTRIBUTOR

The UNO Art Gallery's Hexagon Room is once again focusing on UNO students; eight of them to be exact.

The students featured in the gallery's "Bachelor's of Fine Arts' Independent Study Showcase" explore unconventional media in a showcase that opened on Friday, Nov. 9 and will run through Saturday, Nov. 17.

In the Hexagon Room, a smaller room located adjacent to the main gallery, visitors will find a lobster made from hot glue, an ear drum extension and a photograph of a man in a diaper along with some more conventional forms such as painting and stained glass.

Colleen Heavican, director of the gallery, explained that the students were not able to utilize the entire gallery for the showcase because none of the students had a thesis. Last year, students had theses so the entire space was filled.

Heavican added that, this year, "the show was quickly put together."

The show consists of works from Bryan Truttmann, Josh Powel, Ashley Vak, Richard Murcek, Monica Yoo, Cheryl K. Harms, Joe McNally, Matthew Carlson and Joe Pankowski. They all have pieces in the show reflecting their studies while at UNO.

Pankowski created an eardrum extension from a drawing of an eardrum extension, which he later used in a film about the piece. The creation is a fantastical machine.

Truttmann explored drawing through space with hot glue. He created forms, most notably a lobster, with attributes of a drawing, such as line quality and filled space. This is a concept that famous Spanish painter Pablo Picasso was also curious about. However, Picasso's technique consisted of drawing himself with a light in the dark.

Rounding out the show, Vak created unconventional books, Harms worked in stain glass and McNally took photographs that purposefully avoided symbolism.

The pieces exhibited in the Hexagon provide a wide range of work that exemplifies what fine arts majors are tinkering with in their workshops.

It's too bad they didn't have more time and were not able to utilize the entire art gallery, though, like the previous bachelor's of fine arts' independent showcases. The students' work would be better served with the entire space and more time.

Still, the pieces exhibited will shed light into the styles and ideas that make up UNO's fine arts program.



photo by Bill Wendt

Archie Godfrey looks at the work in the Weber Art Gallery Wednesday afternoon.

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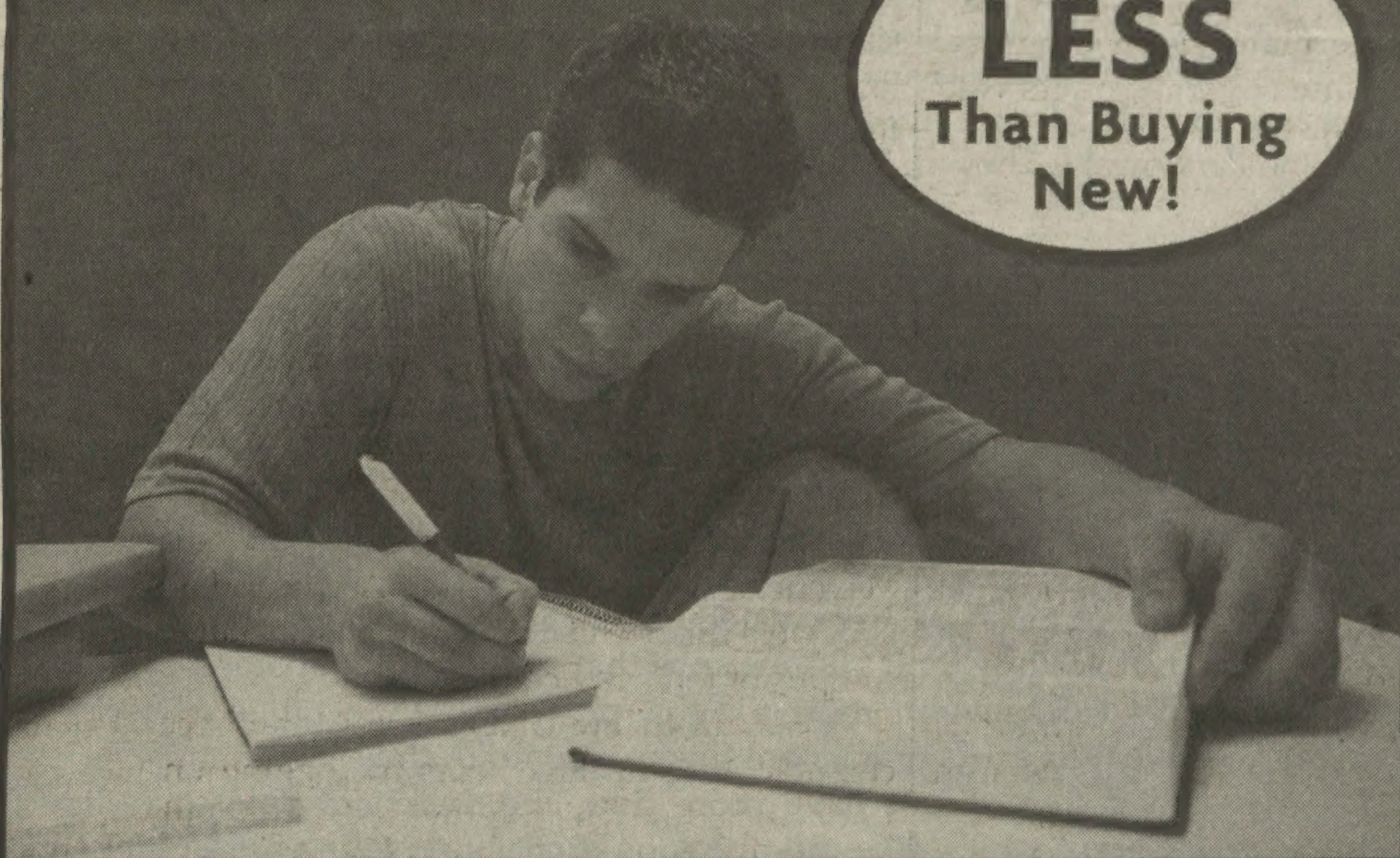
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What if UC system lost state funding?

By LISA M. KRIEGER
SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS

SANJOSE, Calif. (MCT)—The University of California-Berkeley's law and business schools were once largely supported by the state. Now they're just "state-assisted." In the future, they may be merely state-located.

Faced with a huge state deficit, state Treasurer Bill Lockyer recently suggested the unthinkable: abandoning the entire UC system, a move that would eventually save California an estimated \$7 billion a year.

While Lockyer says the concept is simply intended to "generate discussion," it haunts a system already suffering from a steady erosion of funding.

Increasingly, UC campuses reach deep into the private sector for support. And they are not alone: Across the nation, major public universities are shifting away from taxpayer financing. University of Michigan President James J. Duderstadt calls his campus a "privately supported public university."

While UC-Berkeley's Haas Business School and Boalt Law School are public in name, almost three-quarters of their funds already come from tuition and private contributions. UC's undergraduate campuses still rely on the state for much of their budgets — but the subsidy has plummeted 35 percent since 1990.

Lockyer's "Looking Beyond The Horizon" report, issued last month, is his first to envision a more drastic transformation. "Lockyer does not endorse the idea. He is a UC-Berkeley graduate who recognizes the importance of a publicly funded UC to our economy," said Tom Dresslar of Lockyer's office. "But we've got to roll up our sleeves and get serious about fixing our budget. There are going to be tough choices."

The report has sent shock waves through the UC system; not even President Robert Dynes saw it coming.

"Until I stop breathing, I will fight that," he said. "The central heart and soul of the university is its support from the state of California. That has to remain."

UC — an unparalleled research university system that has driven one of the world's great knowledge economies — would be dramatically changed by privatization, says a December 2006 study by faculty members of the UC Committee on Planning and Budget.

Tuition would climb, jumping more than 80 percent by 2010-11, to \$15,306 a year for undergraduates. Under this scenario, UC could lose affluent students to smaller private colleges, reducing the academic quality of the student body. Low-income students would flock to less expensive schools, reducing diversity. Graduate assistantships would be in shorter supply and faculty workloads would climb. Lucrative research would gain importance over teaching.

The campuses would go their separate ways, the report predicts. The three strongest campuses — Berkeley, Los Angeles and San Diego — have the market power to attract students from around the world. But the other nine campuses might struggle.

"It would alter the UC system beyond recognition," the faculty report says. But it adds: "This scenario cannot be ruled out."

So far, UC's efforts to privatize have been selectively applied to certain parts of the institution, such as:

— Higher fees at professional schools.

UC's business, law and medical schools, moving toward greater financial self-sufficiency, say higher tuition is necessary to stay competitive.

At the Haas School of Business, total fees could hit \$40,882 by 2010-11. At Boalt Law School, fees will jump from \$26,897 this year to \$40,906 in 2010-11.

Former U.S. Rep. Tom Campbell, the Bank of America dean of the Haas School of Business, told UC Regents that top business schools around the country now charge

much more than UC. Of students, "it's reasonable to ask that they pay the market rate," he said.

— Aggressive private fundraising.

In the most ambitious campaign in UC-Berkeley's history, campus officials are seeking to raise more than \$2 billion in private donations by 2012. At UCLA, officials call their recent \$3 billion fundraising campaign the most successful in the history of higher education.

But while alumni donations to UC are climbing, officials say the university still lags behind competing institutions such as Stanford and Harvard universities.

— Greater reliance on corporate research.

In a proposed partnership, BP Amoco will build a \$500 million biofuel research center at UC-Berkeley, doubling the amount of corporate funding for research on campus. Chevron is already paying for a \$25 million, five-year biofuels project at UC-Davis.

"I see privatization happening right now," said John M. Simpson, consumer advocate for the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights in Santa Monica. "It is wrong to have this fundamental shift in what the people in California have believed all these years without a public debate."

Several public universities in other states already have taken far more sweeping steps toward privatization, hoping to escape the uncertainty of state budget crises. At the University of Michigan, state support represents only 18 percent of the academic budget — the comparable figure in California is 46 percent — and 11 percent of its total revenue base.

"The idea isn't as drastic as it may sound," wrote Lance J. Weisak and Michael LaFaive of the Mackinac Center, a Michigan-based research and educational institute. "And it is not unfair to ask those who benefit directly from earning the degree to bear a greater burden to pay for it."

Pat Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, said: "I think all public universities are talking about it now." But Callan does foresee drastic changes: "Once you cut the institutions loose, they start serving a different kind of student."

The University of Michigan has seen some of those changes already. Over half of its freshmen class comes from families with six-figure incomes. Forty percent of its entering freshmen class in 2006 were non-residents. And enrollment by minorities has fallen.

In California, a 2004 "higher education compact" between UC, the California State University system and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger — a pact which created some fiscal stability through a funding formula until 2011 — offers modest annual increases in state support. But critics say it locks in low funding to a system stressed by rising enrollments.

Educational experts say no amount of private support can fully offset the loss in public funds, even as they dwindle.

For UC's endowment to pay out enough to cover all its bills, the fund would need to be worth \$54 billion — twice the size of Harvard's and four times the size of Stanford's. To fund it, every man, woman and child in California would have to contribute about \$1,500.

"It will be literally decades, or even a century, before the endowment could grow to a point where it could provide substantial annual support to replace the state," said Steven A. Olsen, UCLA's chief financial officer.

Christopher Newfield, an English professor at UC-Santa Barbara who leads UC's Committee on Planning and Budget, said extensive privatization would have catastrophic consequences.

Said Newfield: "The numbers are dismal. They simply don't add up."

After long lay-off, soaring Mavs return to action hoping for strong postseason push

JASON SIBSON
SPORTS EDITOR

On Oct. 6, the Mavericks were embarrassed by conference foe Augustana 3-0. The loss was UNO's sixth in eight matches.

A promising lineup was on its heels at 9-8, 2-4 in the North Central Conference, and looked to be

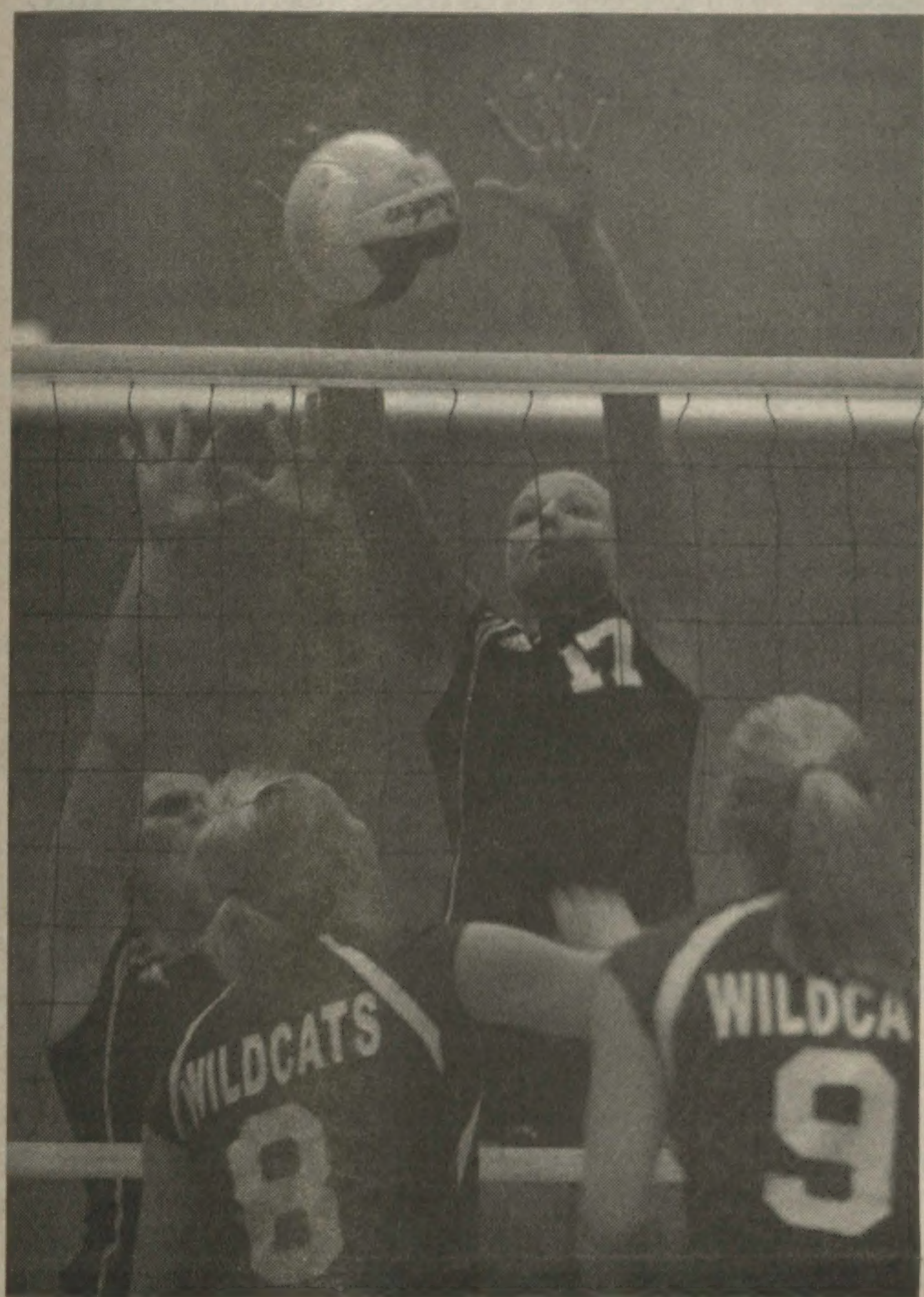


photo by Michelle Bishop
The Mavs began regional action yesterday against Augustana.

earning itself a place on the sidelines of this year's postseason.

Since that match in Sioux Falls, the Mavericks have looked untouchable. The complacency bug had infected the team for weeks, but the passion and the attacking nature of these Mavs returned in time for an impressive postseason run.

The Mavericks have now won seven straight, including a 3-2 rebuttal against Augustana on Oct. 26.

The run was led by the passion and power of senior middle blocker Carlie Christensen. After turning in 331 kills and 130 blocks in 2007, Christensen was named to the all-NCC team for the third straight season in a vote by league coaches.

After nearly a two-week break, the Mavericks returned to action yesterday. UNO and Augustana played a decisive game three in the quarterfinals of the NCAA II North Central Regional tournament.

The Mavs desperately wanted this win after Augustana upset them a year ago in the first round. The game was played on the campus of the host team, 27-1 Minnesota Duluth.

After two hard-fought matches with Duluth during the regular season, a win yesterday would mean UNO would get there shot at the Bulldogs once more. As tall a task as knocking off the NCC juggernauts in the semis may be, UNO is surging with confidence and expects nothing less than a regional title and a national title.

Pending the results of yesterday's games, this likely semifinal match-up will take place tonight at 5:30 p.m.

To find out the results of yesterday's games and today's games, visit the Athletic Department's Web site, gomavs.unomaha.edu, which will also provide you with live stats while the match is in progress. The Gateway will also post game coverage on its Web site, unogateway.com, by Saturday morning.

Maverick men open 2007-08 basketball season this weekend in St. Cloud, Minnesota

KEVIN CLEMENS
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

This year's UNO Mavericks certainly have plenty of ground to make up after finishing last season near the bottom of the North Central Conference. Last year was a disappointing year for the Mavs as injuries were abundant on the team.

This year's squad appears to have a different outlook. With only two seniors, it's easy to think that this team wouldn't bring much veteran leadership to the floor. On the contrary, there will be six returning members to the team who started at least two games last season, and the team may be healthier than they've ever been. With all this young but experienced talent, basketball fans on campus should expect an exciting year.

This year's Mavs are led by their lone seniors, Jerry Bennet and Denny Johnston.

As last year's most consistent player, Johnston started 26 out of 28 games and averaged 10 points and five rebounds per game. He also led the Mavericks from beyond the arc, shooting 46 percent. That mark was also the second best within the NCC.

Bennet provides a strong post presence for the Mavs, and will stand as the leader of the UNO front court. Bennet started 26 games for the Mavs last year, and led the team in both rebounds and blocks.

However, the most athletic and versatile player on this Maverick team is Michael Jenkins. As a sophomore last season, Jenkins averaged 15.2 points per game, an average largely due to his excellence from the charity stripe. Jenkins ended the season with a .899 free-throw percentage, placing him at the top of the NCC and fifth in the nation last year.

Jenkins, who was forced to play most of the year at the point guard position, will now return to his natural position at the wing. This will allow Jenkins to attack the basket, become a pure scorer and maximize his

potential.

"It is his natural position," said Head Coach Derrin Hansen.

Juniors Grant Nieland and Justin Peterson will both return to the floor this year after missing a large majority of last season due to injuries.

Sophomore Andrew Bridger will also return to the team. Bridger started the first five games of the season as a freshman but was forced to sit out a majority of the remaining games due to a concussion and knee injuries.

This year's roster also features four new junior college transfers that may prove vital to this team's success.

Kevin Armstrong from Nassau, Bahamas, averaged 25 points per game for Northeast Community College last season.

Mike Mokeski brings a winning mindset, heading over from the 2006 National Junior College Athletic Association champions, North Lake Community College. Nate Owen joins the team from Rend Lake Community College.

There will also be two sets of brothers playing under Hansen this season: the Petersons and the Albers'.

Transfer Tyler Albers and incoming freshman Mitch Albers played high school basketball together at Papillion-LaVista High School. Tyler broke the scoring record at Papillion-LaVista with 1,128 career points. This record only stood for one year, as younger brother Mitch Albers broke his record by scoring an astounding 1,357 points.

Junior Justin Peterson is joined by his brother Tyler. The Peterson brothers are from Louisville, Neb.

Hansen enters his third season as head coach for the Mavs after he spent seven years as an assistant within the program.

"We have a lot of new guys on the team this year

See **BASKETBALL**: Page 12

Mavs vs. Mavs: UNO's chance at redemption

JASON SIBSON
SPORTS EDITOR

A contest of this magnitude doesn't come around often. Today at 1:30 p.m., Minnesota, Mankato will host perennial powerhouse UNO in the NCAA II Regional soccer final. The winner will become part of the elite eight, competing in the national quarterfinals on Sunday.

Like every other team in the North Central Conference, the Mankato Mavericks have been abused by the UNO Mavs in recent years. However, the NCC's last conference championship was awarded to the Mavericks in purple following an undefeated conference season.

MSU beat UNO 3-0 on Sept. 16, then handed UNO their only home loss of the season, a 4-2 final, just two weeks later.

Despite the two regular season setbacks at the hands of their rival Mavericks, UNO's confidence level going into today's game is sky high.

"Our team is just better," said Head Coach Don Klosterman. "The mistakes that we made in those games we're not making now—it's a credit to our players."

Both teams enter this clash riding massive winning streaks and following thrilling shootout victories in their NCAA II tournament second round games. UNO knocked off Winona State 5-4 in a shootout after both defenses pitched shutouts throughout regulation and overtime.

After slugging it out with Central Missouri through two halves and two extra frames, Mankato outlasted their visitors 7-6 for a marathon shootout victory.

UNO has now won 10 straight must-win games after a dismal 4-5 start. An inexperienced group might have a tendency to wear down during a streak like this, but this veteran group has seen and done it all.

"They've had to do it before, and so I don't think it wears on them that much—at least I haven't seen it," Klosterman said. "We're very pleased with how they've handled everything that they've done so far in the last five weeks."

Mankato has outdone its opponents to win its last 14 contests. Both teams expected to get to this point, and both teams expected the other to be waiting once they got here.

"It's been in the back of our minds that we might have to play them again," said junior midfielder Casey Bigsby. "I think everybody is willing, if not wanting, to have another go at Mankato."

This afternoon in Minnesota, the surging UNO Mavericks will get their shot. A win today will propel UNO to a quarterfinal matchup Sunday afternoon on the campus of today's victor.

You can follow UNO's quest for a second national championship in three years by logging on to gomavs.unomaha.edu, which provides fans with live stats during the game as well as game wrap-ups after they've concluded. The Gateway will also post game coverage on its Web site, unogateway.com, by Saturday morning.



photo by Michelle Bishop
UNO will be taking on Minnesota, Mankato today at 1:30.

The most important lesson I've learned in college wasn't in a classroom

My co-worker Scott Stewart, the *Gateway* editor in chief, wrote a column earlier this month about how the trouble with college isn't being able to learn anything, it's about all the hoops you have to jump through. But from my point of view, it's actually a little bit of both.

Now, before I go on my tirade, I should be up front that my attachment to the world of academia, especially UNO, goes a bit deeper than most of my fellow students. My parents both teach here, and success in school has always been the status quo. As an example, while many students never contemplate graduate school or would think twice about taking a year off to go travel the world, the very thought of not having that safety net has made me sick to my stomach.

Right now I can already tell that many of you are turning away, thinking I'm looking for a pat on the back. I'm not; it's quite the opposite.

As I sit here and write this, nearing the end of the first half of my fifth, and final, year at UNO, I am ready but unable to graduate. In fact, I think I've been ready for quite some time now to just get the hell out.

Yes, it could be the latent senioritis talking; the fact that I am here as a fifth-year senior rather than the usual four years could be playing a part in this equation, but it's not like I hate UNO. In fact, the years I've spent at UNO have been some of the best in my life. No, the problem is that I, too, am jumping through hoops – backwards.

I'm not talking about an assignment here, a project there or even taking classes that I find pointless. It has been few and far between where I have been involved in a class that I wasn't interested in. It's not a lack of desire or a lack of interest that's my problem; it's a lack of being challenged, even in the slightest.

I don't want to have test questions laid out for me, in order, with the answers accompanying them the week before one of our only two major tests in a course. I don't want to

spend an hour and 15 minutes of my time each week sitting on a computer being shown pictures or artwork without context being there to help me learn something. I don't want to have to drive myself to campus only to sit in a classroom to hear an instructor go on 45-minute tangents that have absolutely nothing to do with the course that I agreed to spend my time, effort and money on.

This wasn't always the case for me, though. In my first three years, I took courses that interested me and challenged me. I could actually utilize and see how different authors and ideas complemented each other as well as do some of my own research to put the theories I learned in class to the test in a real-world situation.

In his column, Scott wrote that following a certain curriculum and earning a grade is tangential to actually learning something. And, unfortunately, more often than not, this has been the case with me as well. You do the busy work required of you to flesh out the full 16-week semester and gear yourself up for two, maybe three, tests a semester where you cram the night before to understand what you were taught seven weeks ago.

Instead of using the time I've allotted to learning a subject, I am going through the motions and resorting to outside means to feel like I am actually doing something somewhat important. This only succeeds in causing me to push my actual schoolwork further and further back in terms of importance, even though it has an inversely proportional affect on my future success.

Rather than building off of my previous educational advancements, I actually feel I am regressing and becoming dumber just for the sake of that piece of paper that only really ends up telling me I managed to complete the number of credit hours that I was supposed to in order to graduate from college.

O! the Humanity



Charley Reed

My concern is that, when that time comes for many of my peers and me, the accomplishment will mean almost nothing in terms of real-world skills or knowledge. In the real world, you can't slide by not showing up for a week, hope that your boss will give you help in completing a report or expect to be told, step for step, what you need to do in order to succeed.

I'm not saying I have wasted my time at UNO or, that if I hadn't gone to college at all, I would be any better off than I am right now. I just feel like I can do so much more with my time and energy than copy answers out of the back of some textbook's index section to earn an easy A. I feel like, when push comes to shove, school is going to win out over things that generally make me happier because it is the system that is set up in order for us to succeed in life.

I don't know what can be done to solve the problem, or if there is even a problem at all. Maybe I am just a workaholic that hates his job. But as I near that point where hindsight is 20-20 in terms of the choices I've made in college, I, like any other person, see where I made some mistakes and hopefully can learn from them in the future.

If a lack of learning in the short term actually teaches me important lessons in the long term, maybe I'm not as bad off as I think I am. But, if there is one thing that I've learned in college it's this: Continually test the limits of what you are capable of, regardless of when, how or where you do it.

Never settle for the status quo because knowing when to challenge yourself is just as important, if not more so, as knowing when to ask for help.

You may not be tested on it, and it may not count towards your major, but, in my opinion, finding the balance between what is necessary in life and what is important in life is the most important lesson you could ever learn.

Setting cynicism aside: Thanksgiving perspectives of a student journalist

Reporters sometimes forget that they have a lot to be thankful for when they manage to do their jobs successfully. This is even more the case with student journalists, who have to operate without the clout and resources of larger news enterprises.

With Thanksgiving nearly upon us, I wanted to take the opportunity to acknowledge a great number of people who have been pivotal to my own personal accomplishments so far while at UNO.

First and foremost, the people I have to thank the most are my loving family, who have helped me develop into the person I am. My father, a professional writer, taught me much of what I know about this craft, and both my parents helped guide my early education, giving me a foundation that I wouldn't trade for anything in the world.

Next on the list are my great friends, who have been there for me when I've needed help, whether it was something small like bouncing around an idea or something huge that saved me from becoming overwhelmed. I love all of them, and I appreciate their consistent guidance and support.

Specifically at UNO, a lot of faculty and staff members have helped me achieve my goals so far in college. I have had a lot of understanding professors, who have helped me through hard times by letting me make up work. I've also had a lot of great instructors, whose skill at teaching made the struggles of being a student much easier to approach.

I would also be remiss if I didn't mention those people who helped get me through college. In particular, I am thankful for the generosity of Walter Scott Jr., whose support of the Scott Scholar program has made my life – and the lives of the other students in the program – much better, as we have not had to concern ourselves with the financing of our education.

In the domain of journalism, I'm extremely grateful for the opportunities and guidance provided to me by two of my predecessors here at the *Gateway*, Angi Sada and Crystal Reid. Both Angi and Crystal helped me learn how to write a solid news story, how to get the scoop on what's happening on campus and how to copy edit submissions.

Their support continues to this day, with both offering

me suggestions as well as stories ideas on occasion and expressing their approval on occasion, a validation infinitely more meaningful to me than anything critics have had to say.

Speaking of critics, I am also thankful for everyone who has taken the time and effort to provide thoughtful objections, suggestions and evaluations of my work here at the newspaper. I am thankful, too, for those people who I have found myself at many times at odds with, including President/Regent Alexander Williams (and his predecessor Steve Massara) and others in student government as well as other campus organizations I've managed to upset in the course of my tenure so far at the *Gateway*.

These individuals, for better or worse, have kept me on my toes and have, through both their and my mistakes, taught me a lot of valuable lessons about the journalism.

Additionally, I'm thankful for the *Gateway's* adviser from the *Omaha World-Herald* Christopher Burbach, who has been the teacher to point out many of these lessons learned from the mistakes of both myself and others. Carol Buffington, our publication manager, has also been an incredibly valuable source of guidance at times, especially since I took over as editor-in-chief and felt lost on occasion.

Of course, the people I am most thankful for as a journalist are, in the end, my sources. Very few people here at the university are obligated to devote their time and effort to helping my writers and me figure out what is going on at UNO. Most of the *Gateway's* sources are compelled from a genuine desire to help our publication and inform the public of what it needs to know, and I appreciate the people who make time for us.

While mentioning every important source I have encountered would be

impossible, and unethical in a couple cases of anonymous sources, a couple of them do come to mind as particularly deserving of mention. The staff of University Relations, especially its director Tim Kaldahl and assistant director Wendy Townley, have been incredibly helpful and are almost always there for our reporters when we need them in a pinch.

Linda Mannering, the director of Institutional Research, has been another invaluable source for me over the last couple years. She has provided the *Gateway* with great statistics, a precise viewpoint on university affairs and suggestions for fruitful stories since I first started working with her.

Other than sources, the other group of people who deserve praise for their efforts at the *Gateway* are my wonderful staff and our great (if numerically small) group of reporters.

I am very thankful for my editors: Taylor Muller in news, Patrick Doty in features, Charley Reed in arts and leisure, Jason Sibson in sports and Michelle Bishop in photography. Also, the other folks who regularly come in during production deserve thanks: Production Manager Matthew Volkman, Assistant Section and Copy Editor Pamela Bouterse and Senior Staff Photographer Bill Wendt.

I would extend special thanks to Copy Editor Ashlee Schuette, who puts up with long nights and lost sleep

See **STEWART**: Page 12

Sinister Slant



Scott Stewart

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Guest Voice: Hollywood writers have had enough and so have we

PAMELA BOUTERSE
ASST. SECTION & COPY EDITOR

Does anyone else think this Writers Guild of America strike has gone on far too long?

Not long in the sense that the writers are doing anything wrong, but long in the sense the entertainment industry somehow hasn't gotten the hint yet.

The WGA, West and East divisions, represents more than 12,000 movie and television writers in their contract with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers. The WGA went on strike on Nov. 5 after three months of failed negotiations. Film and TV producers failed to produce a new contract to include compensations for use of their work in new media outlets such as the Internet, mobile phones and digital music players.

Just because the contract is out of date doesn't mean writers should be punished, but rather that the contract needs to be updated. According to the Writers Guild, guild-covered writer earnings have risen at less than half the rate of entertainment industry profits.

Late-night talk shows, scripted TV shows, feature films and other programming are suffering from the strike. According to the Wall Street Journal, Warner Bros. television suspended production of shows including *Two and a Half Men* and *The Big Bang Theory*, while Sony Pictures Television stopped production of *Rules of Engagement* and *Til Death*.

Actors and actresses are supporting the protesting writers, bringing food across the picket line include actress Eva Longoria of *Desperate Housewives*, who greeted strikers with pizza, and *Ugly Betty* cast members marched outside Raleigh Studios.

Others who joined the writers included actors Ben Stiller, Robin Williams, and David Duchovny; *ER* cast members John Stamos, Maura Tierney and Mekhi Phifer; *Friends* stars Lisa Kudrow and Matthew Perry; as well as Elliot Gould, Katherine Heigl, Julia Louis-Dreyfus and funny man Jack Black of *Tenacious D*, to name a few.

In addition to the WGA strike, some 25 Broadway shows have been canceled since stagehands went on strike on Saturday. They have been without a contract since July. According to the Reuters Web site, "New

York Mayor Michael Bloomberg has called on both sides to resolve their differences, saying that the economic impact of the strike is felt far beyond the closed theaters. Broadway shows are a major tourist attraction, bringing hundreds of millions of dollars into the city." Negotiations are to take place this weekend at an undisclosed time and place.

The last major WGA strike in 1988 lasted 22 weeks and cost the entertainment industry an estimated \$500 million. Can the entertainment industry really afford another strike like that or even worse? You would think it would be cheaper for them to just give the writers their fair cut.

Instead, the studios are trying to blame increasing production costs to avoid giving writers their share. However, this strike could very well cost the studios a whole lot more. The modern world almost revolves around the Internet, and the writers' demand for payments for shows made available to stream or download online is reasonable.

A writer doesn't have the same job security as most jobs do. The show they write for could be canceled at any time, so the money they do make from their current show is vital for them and their families.

"If the studios really believe they can't share a sliver of profits with the people who create what they sell, they'll be the losers," wrote *Los Angeles Times* columnist Patrick Goldstein. "If you don't believe in the future, you shouldn't be in show business."

It's not only the writers who are suffering. Audiences are noticing their favorite shows go off the air one by one. It started with the late-night talk shows and is now leaking into our sitcoms and prime-time dramas.

Popular TV shows are literally running out of scripts as the strike continues and, although film production remains unaffected for now, *Desperate Housewives* actually ran out of scripts already. It won't be long before movie quality disappears as they dip into their stockpile of scripts.

A scarier aspect of this situation is a clause

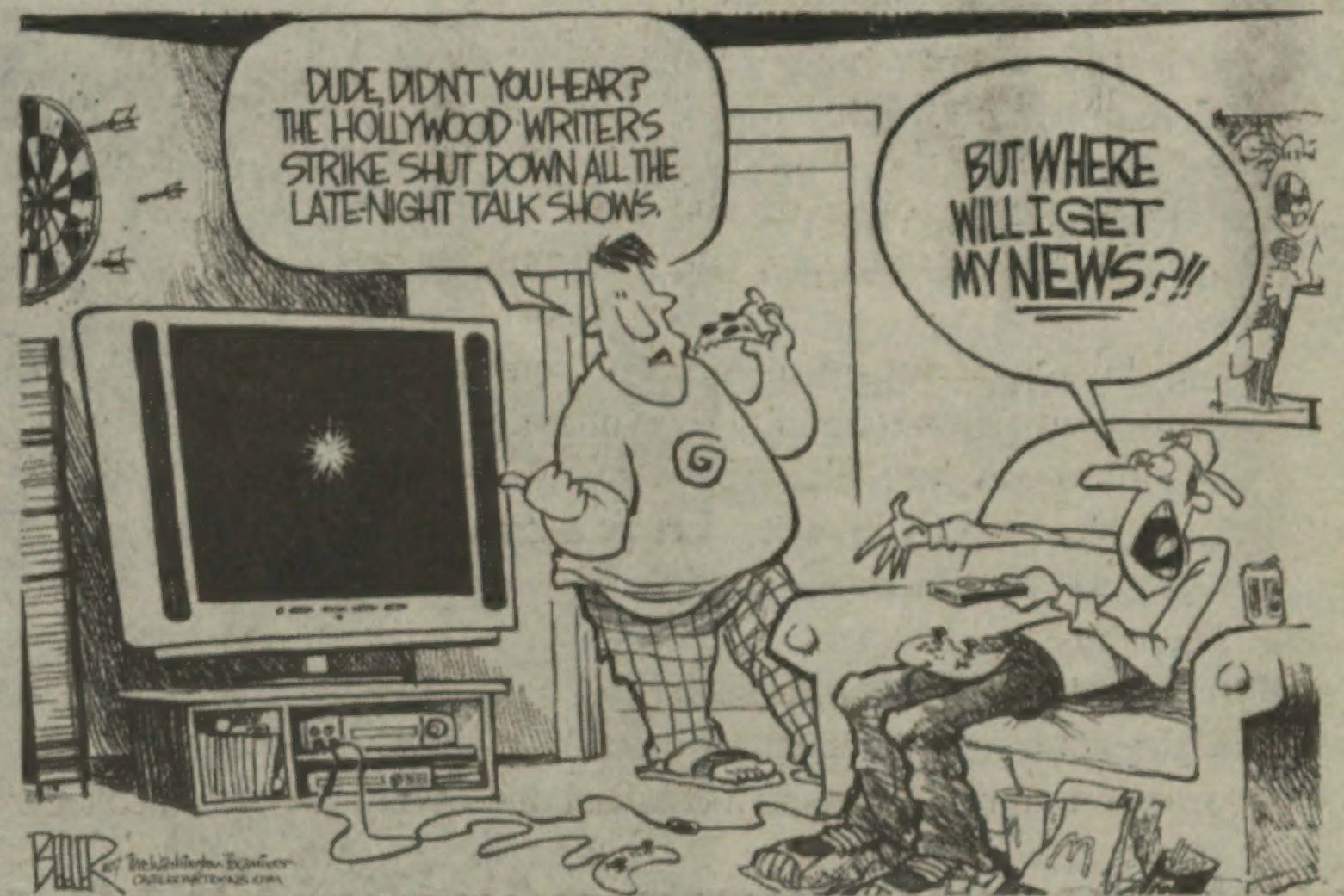
in writers' contracts called the "force majeure," which, according to CNBC, allows media companies to negate contracts during a strike.

This essentially means if the studios wait long enough, they can get rid of the writers legally and start over with new writers. Since this clause is ineffective until six weeks into a strike, producers are unlikely to give in until then.

For now, supporters of the protesting writer's can show their support in a number of different ways. One simple thing you can do is change your MySpace.com and Facebook.com profile pictures to the WGA's support graphic, which can be downloaded at wga.org - just click on "Support Us" link on the main page. You can join the official MySpace group in support of the strike at myspace.com/hollywoodinterrupted.

Additionally, you can also send a message of support to the WGA or write the heads of NBC, CBS, ABC, Fox, Viacom and Warner Bros., asking them to bargain fairly with the writers. You can also sign a petition supporting the strike at petitiononline.com/WGA/petition.html.

With the amount of money these businesses make off of these writers' work, it's only fair that they give them a piece of the pie. Everyone who enjoys the products of the American entertainment industry has an obligation to jump in and join the WGA's fight.



Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building Hours

Monday - Thursday: 6:30 AM - 11:00 PM

Friday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM

Saturday: 8:30 AM - 7:00 PM

Sunday: 12:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Mav-Rec Campus Recreation

Position Available

Job Title:
Promotion's Coordinator

Job Description:
Assist in assessment, development and implementation of Campus Recreation promotions and marketing plans.

Qualification Requirements:
Must possess genuine interest in promoting the various activities offered by Campus Recreation, have strong interpersonal skills, excellent verbal and written communication skills, experience with Adobe programs, and he/she must show confidence in making presentations to groups or talking to individuals at information tables.

Contact:
Applications are available at Campus Recreation, HPER 100. Be sure to indicate availability for the summer. Contact Joel Bauch, Assistant Director, Campus Recreation, 554-2997 if you have any questions. This position may be used as an internship; however, preference will be given to applicant(s) that are seeking longer employment.

Mav-Rec IM Sports

Intramurals Presents

Wrestling Tournament

Register: November 5 - November 20
Event: November 20
Weigh-in @ 5:00pm HPER Locker Room

Water Basketball

Register: November 7 - November 23
Event: November 26 7:00pm

Enter to Win

Stop by HPER to enter to win a Philips Norelco 7000 Series Razor. Grand prize is a Philips 32" HDTV.

Mav-Rec Fitness and Wellness Chair Massage

Friday, November 16

11:00am-1:00pm

\$10/15 minutes

-or- \$15/30 minutes

Register in HPER 100.
Walk-in's accepted time permitting

Thank you to all UNO
Faculty/Staff who participated
in the Health Risk Appraisal

Mav-Rec Outdoor Venture Center

General Classes & Workshops

Outdoor Leadership

Thursdays Jan 17-May 1 7pm-9:30pm
Class Trip: April 5-6

For this who wish to take others on outdoor activities. A prerequisite for Outdoor Venture Center trip coordinators. Introduction to outdoor leadership. Prior outdoor experience required. (ie: Backpacking & Orienteering Basics class or equivalent experience) Addresses major environmental hazards facing the outdoor adventure leader, such as accident management, environmental ethics and use, liability and risk management, etc. Major emphasis on accident prevention. Wilderness first aid and rescue briefly addressed. Recreation and Leisure Studies credit available.

Registration Cost: \$50 UNO/\$60 GP
Late Fee: + \$15 after 1/6

Paddling: Open Pool Sessions

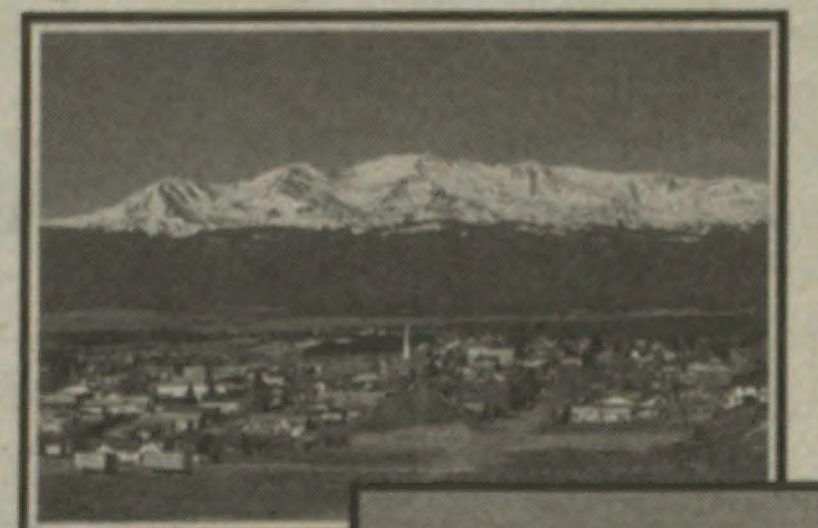
Sunday, December 2 (4 - 6 p.m.)

For those wanting time in the UNO pool to work on paddling skills. No formal instruction, but is a good time to increase comfort levels and familiarity with kayaks. Feel free to bring your own boat and equipment. Must be able to wet exit to attend, no first-time paddlers please. Pool space is limited, pre-register with the OVC.

Winter Break Trip

Skiing/Snowboard at Ski Cooper

Wednesday 1/3 - Sunday 1/7
Mandatory Pre-trip Meeting:
Tuesday 12/11 6pm-8pm



Join the OVC for 3 days of skiing and snowboarding on the slopes of Ski Cooper located outside the mountain town of Leadville, Colorado in San Isabel National Forest. Hotel and lift tickets are covered in the price of the trip, but rentals are not included.

Registration Cost: \$332 UNO/\$382 GP
Late Fee: + \$15 after 12/24

From **FOOTBALL:** Page 1

In this century, the Grand Valley State Lakers are the New England Patriots of Division II football. They've captured the last two national championships and four out of the last five. Head Coach Chuck Martin has his guys riding a D-II record 38-game winning streak.

Nothing less than a perfect performance by an exceptional opponent will bring these rolling giants down. Should form hold, the Mavericks will get their chance at Caniglia Field on Dec. 1.

Northwest Missouri State

Let's not forget the guys on the other side of the last two national championships. The Northwest Missouri State Bearcats lost to the Lakers by a field goal in last season's final game, and Grand Valley's touchdown, with four minutes left in the game, sealed their fate in 2005. This year marks Northwest's 10th playoff appearance in 12 years.

Their only loss this season came in their season opener at UNO in a 25-21 September thriller. They've since rattled off nine straight victories, including an 86-13 triumph over Southern Baptist and a win over Washburn, the sixth seed in this year's Southwest Region.

Their roster boasts 10 first-team all-MIAA selections this season, the most for this storied program since 1997. The Bearcats earned the two-seed in this year's Southwest Region and will await the Washburn/West Texas A&M winner.

Chadron State

That's right, the Mavs aren't the only Nebraska football program with an excellent chance at this year's championship. Yes, the undefeated Chadron State Eagles have faced some powder puffs this season, but they've also beaten Mesa State and Washburn, two teams competing in this year's playoffs.

Chadron boasts college football's all-time leading rusher in any division, Danny Woodhead, who's scored 19 touchdowns while competing in just nine games this season. The senior from North

Platte leads a squad itching to improve on last year's quarterfinal exit.

The Sleeper:*North Alabama*

A 27-24 loss on October 27 to the Southeast Region's No. 1 seed, Valdosta State, ended a 19-game regular season winning streak for the North Alabama Lions. If form holds to the second round, the Lions will see their conference foes again on December 1 with a chance at redemption.

In a far inferior half of this year's bracket, the winner of that probable contest will have the inside track to the title game at Braly Municipal Stadium in Florence, Ala. The 14,215-seat stadium just happens to be where the North Alabama Lions call home.

The first round of the NCAA Division II playoffs will play out Saturday, Nov. 17. UNO will begin its postseason at Caniglia Field Saturday, Nov. 24, at 1:05 p.m.

Tickets, which went on sale Tuesday, are \$15 for reserved seats in the west stadium or \$10 for adult general admission and \$5 for student and senior (65-over) general admission in the east and north bleachers. They are available at the Sapp Fieldhouse ticket office or through Ticketmaster.

Folks, do yourself a favor. Buy a ticket and become a part of the most exciting season in the history of UNO football.



photo by Michelle Bishop

UNO and Northwest Missouri State are two of the favorites in the Northwest Region.

From **BASKETBALL:** Page 9

and I am excited to get the season going," Hansen said. "We are just going to try and play as hard and as smart as we can."

This will be the last season within the NCC as it will be disbanded after this year. The Mavericks will be joining the MIAA conference next season.

Before the final NCC season begins, the Mavericks will play in two tournaments. The first tournament will play out this weekend at St. Cloud State in Minnesota. UNO's home tournament, the Thanksgiving Classic, will be held at the Sapp Fieldhouse on Nov. 23.

After the home tournament the Mavericks will square off against four MIAA opponents before beginning NCC conference play.

The Mavs will open the St. Cloud State tournament against Mary University on Nov. 16 at 6 p.m.

From **CHANCELLOR:** Page 1

the schedule during regular semesters would be as it is now and the proposal will not dramatically change the start dates of the spring and fall semesters.

"I'm not going to be the Grinch that steals Christmas or the holiday season," he said, laughing. "I really like Thanksgiving."

Concerned with the decrease in funding from budgeting constraints, Christensen considers the proposed change helpful in combating the projected loss of revenue in the upcoming 10 years.

"The future is going to challenge us to use the dollars available more affectively to serve students in best possible way. This may be one of tools by which this campus could continue to do that," he said. "I hope everyone keeps an open mind about this because I think it provides a number of advantages to students."

From **STEWART:** Page 10

to make sure the *Gateway* stays on top of our usage and mechanics. Our advertising department - consisting of Advertising Manager Bre Gehrken, Advertising Producer Zach Maharaj and Classifieds Manager Elisa Born - also deserves praise, as does our Circulations Manager Bob Vacanti.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, it's important to keep a perspective on how much the kindness and effort of so many people impact our daily lives. Myself, I am very thankful for all the great people I have had the opportunity to work with so far here at UNO, and I am excited for the people I will get to work with in the coming semesters.

Classified Ads

NOTICES

Advertising will be rejected that discriminates based on age, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.

Black, Nokia N73 cell phone-from Hong Kong-cannot be used in the US-lost on a Pacific St. shuttle bus on Monday 11/5. If found please turn in to Admin Office, MBSC 2nd floor or Security Office, EAB 100. Or for reward call 212-1597.

LOST & FOUND

FOR ITEMS LOST AT UNO
Contact Campus Security, EAB 100, 554-2648.
Turned-in items can be claimed by a description and proper identification.

Advertising for items lost or found on the UNO campus will be published free in the Gateway for two weeks. Forms are available at the Office located in Milo Bail 1st Floor.

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Common business sense, working knowledge or ability to learn graphics programs will land this job! Flexible schedule!
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Send resume and apply for interview to Anne@stringofpurls.com

Things Remembered at the Westroads Mall is now hiring Seasonal part-time help. All shifts available- 10-20 hrs per week.
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It's an exciting time to be a part of the Lawlors Custom Sportswear Team! Lawlors, Omaha's College Superstore, is looking to add outgoing and energetic team members to our retail locations at Westroads Mall, Oakview Mall and our NEW Main store location on 84th Street. We are a rapidly growing company specializing in the sale of local college sports team apparel as well as custom team and corporate merchandise. Applicants should be available to work retail mall hours Sunday through Saturday. If you are interested in becoming a part of our retail team, applications are being accepted at 4414 S. 84th Street. Lawlors is an equal opportunity employer.

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